

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 8, 9, 12 and 15, add new claim 31, and cancel claims 16-30, without prejudice, as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, a complete listing of claims is provided herein. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating configuring of resources of a communications environment, said method comprising:

automatically mapping a first identifier of a resource of a ~~communications environment~~machine being configured to a second identifier of the resource to assign a physical path of the resource to a logical path of the resource, wherein the first identifier is usable by hardware to identify the resource and the second identifier is usable by a program of the ~~communications environment~~machine to identify the resource, and wherein the mapping is based on the physical structure of the machine being configured and on avoiding single points of failure or single points of repair.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource comprises a communications adapter.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the communications adapter comprises a channel, the first identifier comprises a physical channel identifier (PCHID) and the second identifier comprises a logical channel path identifier (CHPID).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the communications adapter is of an input/output subsystem of the ~~communications environment~~machine, the input/output subsystem being configured as a plurality of input/output images.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically mapping comprises automatically selecting the first identifier to be mapped to the second identifier from a plurality of first identifiers, wherein the selecting takes into consideration a definition associated with the second identifier.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selecting takes into consideration the availability of a plurality of resources associated with the plurality of first identifiers in selecting the first identifier to be mapped to the second identifier.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising choosing the second identifier for which mapping is to occur from a plurality of second identifiers, said choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing as input to the automatically mapping a physical description of one or more resources of the ~~communications environment~~machine, said physical description comprising the first identifier.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the physical description is in a report generated in response to ordering a ~~the machine of the~~ communications environment, said report being a direct input to the automatically mapping.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising providing as another input to the automatically mapping a logical definition of the resource, said logical definition comprising the second identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an output of the automatically mapping is an input/output control program statement that includes the first identifier.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising providing the input/output control program statement to a hardware configuration definition to be used to produce an input/output configuration data set usable by the ~~communications environment~~machine for configuration.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the second identifier is provided to the automatically mapping via the hardware configuration definition.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically mapping comprises performing one or more selective validations on data input to the automatically mapping.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically mapping is performed to change a configured ~~communications environment~~machine.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

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21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

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27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is being configured prior to installation.